

Jay Clayton's Jazz Vocal Practice Series

Volume 2: Vamps and Blues

Practice Improvising!

Tracks 1-8: vamps to improvise over

Vamps are one or more chords repeated over and over again. Since the harmony doesn't change much, you have time to hear ideas and develop a solo as well as find new ways to articulate and build your personal vocabulary.

There are eight piano vamps on this practice CD. Each one has a different feel and character and chord progression.

Track 1: 3/4

Track 5: 5/4

Track 6: Phrygian

Track 7: Latin No. 2

Tracks 9: 12-bar Major Blues

Use this track to practicing improvising over the major blues. The best way to develop a vocabulary for improvising on the blues is to learn all or many of the blues heads.

Examples: *Now's the Time*, *Billie's Bounce*, *Straight No Chaser*, *Au Privave*, *Blue Monk*, *Centerpiece*, *Bessie's Blues*

Sing the blues heads over the minus one choruses and then begin to practice soloing/scatting.

Track 2: Bebop

Track 3: Dorian

Track 4: Latin No. 1

Track 8: Changing Modes

Note: Singers can also use these tracks as environments for reciting the lyrics to standards you are working on, or poetry, to get into the meaning and clarity of "the word."

Track 10: 12-bar Minor Blues

Again, learn several minor blues heads to develop vocabulary and spark ideas for soloing.

Examples: *Mr. P.C.*, *Birk's Works*, *Interplay*

NEVER STOP IMPROVISING ON THE BLUES!